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ABSTRACT

This book rates 60 selected Web sites that focus on three core K-12 content areas--math, reading, and language arts. The introduction summarizes the quality criteria for the site ratings and selection, lists recommended software and plug-ins for viewing Web sites, provides tips on Internet navigation, and offers guidelines for Internet safety. The sites are then organized in three chapters corresponding to the content areas. The entry for each site includes recommended grade levels, the rating (using a scale of from two to five stars), the site's URL (Uniform Resource Locator), and a brief annotation. (MES)

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60 GREAT Internet Sites for Math, Reading, and Language Arts

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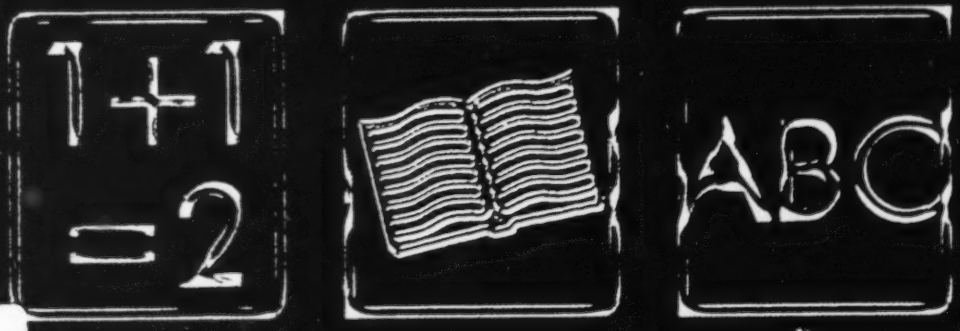

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Mark Treadwell

http://teachers.work.co.nz

GREAT Internet Sites For Math, Reading, and Language Arts

Mark Treadwell

3

Arlington Heights, Illinois

The author has made every attempt to provide accurate and current information regarding educational sites on the Internet; however, the Internet changes rapidly. Frequently, sites alter their addresses or their contents, undergo reconstruction, cease to be updated, or are removed completely. The author and publisher assume no responsibility for alterations, omissions, or errors, nor do they assume any liability for damages resulting from the use of this information.

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Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A
09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

There are

one-story intellects,

two-story intellects, and

three-story intellects with skylights.

All fact collectors, who have no aim beyond their facts, are

one-story minds.

Two-story minds

compare, reason, generalize,

using the labors of the fact collectors

as well as their own.

Three-story minds

idealize, imagine, predict—their best illumination comes from above,

through the skylight.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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SkyLight Professional Development

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Introduction

The Internet sites in this book relate to specific curriculum areas and include summaries of how the sites can be used in the classroom. The Internet is dynamic—content and presentation can change without warning. Since the site may have changed after the review was written, the reviews are not a guarantee of the quality and content of the site. Reviews are intended only as guides.

Site Ratings

Below are the quality and content criteria for the ratings.

★★★★★ The content quality and presentation are exemplary. The multimedia material presented includes multiple learning styles and modes of approach, is interactive, well-researched and based on sound pedagogy, and is easy to navigate.

★★★★ The quality of content and presentation is exemplary. The well-referenced material is based on sound pedagogy and provides interactive feedback.

★★★ The content is acceptable and suitable for specified levels. Though the presentation varies, the site is easy to navigate. Links to additional sites backup the information presented.

★★ The site includes information specific to niche areas of study. Although the material is factual and correct, the presentation may not optimize the learning process. Assistance from the teacher will be necessary to maximize the benefit of using the site.

Criteria for Site Selection

Sites reviewed were included if they met the following criteria.

- The site is authorized and credible, backed by an organization or educational institution. The site often includes a link to the organization or a biographical page detailing the background of the content provider(s) and contact details.
- Statistics are cited with a reference to the original information and its location.

- The site includes interactive features, allowing for a response via forms or via e-mail. The site responds to requests and acknowledges information sent.
- The site emphasizes information, not flashy applets, that has obvious application. Graphic files download quickly and do not take up the whole screen.
- The site is updated regularly, usually once a month. The last update date is posted.
- Links to additional information are included. Good sites always refer viewers to additional sites that provide specific information.
- The site can be navigated easily. It is obvious what to click on and how to return to where you started, often with an index on the left side of the page.
- If the site is large, it is searchable and includes a site index. Searches of directories are theme-based and not Boolean-based.
- The site's objective is stated in the introduction and is "fleshed out" in the content of the site.
- The site correlates with curriculum objectives and relates to schools' educational objectives.
- No racial, religious, or gender imbalance or offensive language is in the site. (Before recommending a site, consider the ethics and morals that you wish to establish within your educational community. Be aware of the hidden curriculum that you may unknowingly teach via the sites you recommend.)
- The level of language on the site is appropriate. The text, graphics, video, audio files, and font sizes suit the intended readers.
- The layout is simple—one of the best indicators of quality of content.
- The tasks on the site allow for various learning styles of individuals. Each site will have a learning style focus, but a balance of styles is the overall aim.
- The types of activities are varied with independent, teacher-dependent, peer-dependent, co-dependent, and team-dependent activities.

- Sites encourage students' creativity and imaginations, and employ problem-solving strategies to develop an understanding of the material presented.
- Project-based sites provide a project management process for teachers and students with objectives, timelines, and development strategies.
- Alternative points of view are encouraged where ethical and moral statements exist. The site gives students an opportunity to investigate alternative views via referenced links or additional resources.
- The questioning strategy includes higher-order thinking skills, such as synthesis, as well as application and analysis of data.
- The site lets students share what they have learned via electronic lists or newsgroups.
- The site provides methods to turn information into knowledge via sound questioning techniques, visual and audio support, and investigative inquiries.
- The site clearly states what ability level the site is aimed at and the topics that are covered.
- Links to plug-in applications, such as Shockwave or RealAudio, are provided onsite where required for easier downloading.
- All lists or newsgroups are moderated. If the site accepts responses, the site coordinator reviews them before responses are placed on the site.
- The information on the site is independent of commercial gain. The owner of the site does not gain pecuniary advantage through the comments, views, or opinions expressed.

Software and Plug-ins

The following software and plug-ins are beneficial and sometimes necessary to view sites on the Internet. Most sites that require additional software or plug-ins give a link to the software with directions for downloading. Downloads are often available for free.

Modem Sharing <http://www.wingate.com/>

Modem sharing software allows several machines to share one modem. Although this reduces speed, it is an excellent solution for those who have only one telephone line.

RealAudio, RealVideo <http://www.real.com/>

RealAudio and RealVideo are becoming the standard for accessing sound files and video over the Internet. Both are available for free.

Macromedia Flash and Shockwave

<http://www.macromedia.com/>

Both of these plug-ins improve the look of graphics and provide animation effects over the Internet. Downloads are free.

Apple QuickTime <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>

This is the standard software for viewing video clips over the Web. Downloads are free.

Crescendo <http://www.liveupdate.com/dl.html>

Many music education sites use this plug-in to play MIDI files.

Netzip <http://www.netzip.com/ plugin.html>

This program downloads compressed files and plug-ins, reducing the storage space and time spent downloading. Files are easily extracted after downloading.

Adobe Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

With this plug-in, view and save fully formatted texts, essays, and articles. This is an excellent tool for all educators using the Web. Downloads are free.

Finding Where You Have Been

We often find information but forget how we got there. Sites can be saved in the bookmark system. For a list of all sites visited in the last three months (depending on the size of your cache, or history, file), type *about:global* into the Netscape location bar. This file cannot be deleted, so it is a good check on where students have been! If you are using Internet Explorer, go to the directory of files on your computer and select the operating system files (Windows or Mac OS). Doubleclick on the history file for a list of all sites visited.

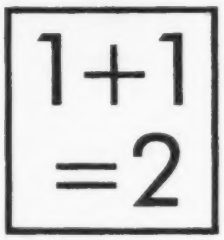
Safety on the Internet

Schools providing Internet access to students must ensure that systems and policies are in place and students do not access information that is inappropriate or use information inappropriately. Teachers can follow four basic guidelines:

- The school must have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). A generic policy, copyright-free for schools to adapt, is available in electronic form at <AUP@work.co.nz>. The AUP must be reviewed every six months and distributed to parents or caregivers of students using the Internet.
- Filtering software is recommended when the Internet is used in places where individual monitoring is not possible (e.g., libraries). The software is inexpensive and effective when set up correctly. Software such as Net Nanny and Cyber Patrol (now part of the SurfControl family) are tried and true products. For prefiltered content, services such as Family Net <http://www.family.net> filter the content at the ISP level.
- Ensure that computers with Internet access are placed in an open and public area. Avoid placing computers in small rooms or behind screens. Placing computers in open spaces can distract other students, but safety must be a priority.
- An Internet license system requires parents or caregivers to sign an agreement for their child to access the Internet. Usually a laminated card with the school name, the student's name, and a parent or caregiver signature, the license is placed on the computer when the student uses the Internet. No card equals no Internet use.

If these strategies are followed, the school has shown due diligence, and the use of the Internet will be successful and productive.

Mathematics



Title URL	Rating	Page
Absurd Math http://www.hrmvideo.com/abmath/index.html	★★★★	13
Algebra Online http://www.algebra-online.com/	★★	13
Ancient Geometry http://members.aol.com/bbyars1/contents.html	★★★★	13
Assessment Resource Banks in Math http://arb.nzcer.org.nz/nzcer3/nzcer.htm	★★★	13
BasketMath Interactive http://www.scienceacademy.com/BI/index.html	★★★	14
CEEE GirlTECH Lesson Plans http://www.crpc.rice.edu//CRPC/Women/GirlTECH/lessons.html	★★★	14
Click on Bricks http://tqjunior.advanced.org/3896/index2.htm.	★★★	14
Color Math Pink http://www.colormathpink.com	★★★★	14
Constant Perimeter and Constant Area Rectangles http://www.edc.org/LTT/ConnGeo/CP.html	★★	15
Dr. Plenobius Airtight College Department of Diabolics http://www.hrmvideo.com/abmath/drp99/index.html	★★★★	15
Egyptian Mathematics http://www.eyelid.co.uk/numbers.htm	★★★★	15

E-MATH ★★
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Fractals: Math or Art? ★★★★
http://www.dcet.k12.de.us/teach/quest/shari.htm 16

Geometry Through Art ★★
http://forum.swarthmore.edu/~sarah/shapiro/ 16

Glossary of Mathematical Mistakes ★★
http://www.mathmistakes.com/ 16

Graphing Vector Calculator: An Interactive Java Applet ★★
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Integrating Spreadsheets in Your Classroom ★★★★
http://home.earthlink.net/~ohora/spreadsheet/ssintegration.html 16

Interactive Mathematics Miscellany and Puzzles ★★★★
http://www.cut-the-knot.com/content.html 17

Math in Daily Life ★★★
http://www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath/ 17

MathRealm ★★★★★
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http://www.geom.umn.edu/apps/pinball/about.html 18

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http://www.cs.ubc.ca/nest/egems/pq/toc.html 18

Project SkyMath: Making Mathematical Connections ★★★
http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html 18

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The Challenge of the 7 Cups ★★★★★
http://www.learningwave.com/abmath/7cups/index.html 19

The 7th Floor ★★★★★
http://www.learningwave.com/abmath/hotel/index4.html 19

WebMath ★★★★
http://www.webmath.com/ 20

Zoomerang: Surveys Online ★★★★
http://www.zoomerang.com 20

Absurd Math

ideal for grade levels 4–10 ★★★★

http://www.hrmvideo.com/abmath/index.html

The title of the site gives away its style, but the mathematics that underpin the activities here is excellent. The concept is student oriented—students will love the absurd math. The site couples mathematical objectives with a competitive game approach for an intriguing set of applications of mathematics and good fun.

Algebra Online

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★

http://www.algebra-online.com/

This is a great service from a committed group of math teachers. It is mainly a support resource for students, who can ask questions and receive assistance for free! There is a mailing list you can join that supplies information to students and teachers on all things algebra. Other features include a chat area and a message board.

Ancient Geometry

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★★

http://members.aol.com/bbyars1/contents.html

This is a wonderfully produced site with insights into mathematics history. With an excellent prologue, there are sections on the first mathematicians (Euclid, al'Khwarizmi and al jabr), pi, recreational and newer mathematics. The site includes a Java-based mathematics chat, a bibliography, and an online bookstore.

Assessment Resource Banks in Math

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://arb.nzcer.org.nz/nzcer3/nzcer.htm

An excellent question bank dealing with all areas of mathematics at all levels. Register (free) and use the search engine to find questions on the topics you desire. An excellent site, even the answers are provided!

BasketMath Interactive

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.scienceacademy.com/BI/index.html

This Web site contains practice problems across a wide range of topics, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, rounding, writing numbers, order of operations, common factor, word problems, exponents, reasoning, and map reading.

CEEE GirlTECH Lesson Plans

ideal for grade levels 2–11 ★★★

http://www.crpc.rice.edu//CRPC/Women/GirlTECH/lessons.html

This work is the result of GirlTECH projects over the last few years. Each activity makes use of the Internet to teach a concept in an interdisciplinary manner. Great work here on Pizza Your Way, Indy 500, and A Functional Housing Market. Some excellent math is embedded in good overall concept topics. Suitable for the more academically talented primary and middle students up to eleventh grade.

Click on Bricks

ideal for grade levels K–8 ★★★

http://tqjunior.advanced.org/3896/index2.htm

This site provides multiplication facts for the student who is just coming to terms with the concept. This great site encourages the concept of multiplication in a highly visual context.

Color Math Pink

ideal for grade levels 6–12 ★★★★

http://www.colormathpink.com/

If you are looking for a mathematical Web site to encourage girls, then this will be an excellent start. The goal here is to remove mathematical barriers which prevent girls from discovering a cure for cancer, flying an airplane, heading a major company, or traveling to Saturn.

Constant Perimeter and Constant Area Rectangles

ideal for grade levels K–10 ★★

http://www.edc.org/LTT/ConnGeo/CP.html

Simple and very effective site for students to develop the relationship between area and perimeter. Java animations are used to demonstrate the principle, which allows the students to vary the perimeter in one direction and observe the changes in the other in order to keep the area the same. The same process is used to demonstrate the reverse relationship.

Dr. Plenobius Airtight College Department of Diabolics

ideal for grade levels 4–10 ★★★★

http://www.hrmvideo.com/abmath/drp99/index.html

This isn't your average math site, and neither is it intended to be. The site combines flesh-eating bacteria, laboratory animals, and mathematics in an incredible story that students have to navigate their way through. Wonderfully presented. Students think it's great; math will never be the same again.

Egyptian Mathematics

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://www.eyelid.co.uk/numbers.htm

This is an excellent site for math teachers to use in showing powers of ten. Students love variety and different approaches, and this is certainly different. Teach students the Egyptian decimal system and how to add tadpoles to coils of rope or subtract the lotus plant from a finger. Well designed and easy to follow.

E-MATH

ideal for all grade levels ★★

http://www.ed.gov/pubs/emath/

This excellent site allows math teachers to make full use of the communication aspect of the Internet. Here you will find a whole range of e-mail programs with the goal of helping students tackle difficult problems in mathematics, science, and technology.

Fractals: Math or Art?

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★★

http://www.dcet.k12.de.us/teach/quest/shari.htm

In this Webquest, students will be introduced to the beautiful and fascinating world of fractals. They will explore fractal geometry with connections to mathematics, art, and nature.

Geometry Through Art

ideal for grade levels K–7 ★★

http://forum.swarthmore.edu/~sarah/shapiro/

This is a very comprehensive set of lesson plans and assignments that cover geometric concepts, with teacher masters that you can print off and good vocabulary to introduce at various grade levels. This is great math suitable for K–7.

Glossary of Mathematical Mistakes

ideal for all grade levels ★★

http://www.mathmistakes.com/

This is a wonderful glossary of mathematical mistakes from the media, politicians, reporters, activists, and the general population. The mistakes are often misinterpretations of facts or mathematics applied incorrectly. This site provides a wealth of anecdotal examples with references.

Graphing Vector Calculator: An Interactive Java Applet

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★

http://www.frontiernet.net/~imaging/vector_calculator.html

This is an excellent Java applet that allows you to create vectors using the computer mouse. You can demonstrate simple vector addition, vector subtraction, and the concept of what vectors are in a dynamic environment. Great teaching tool.

Integrating Spreadsheets in Your Classroom

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://home.earthlink.net/~ohora/spreadsheet/ssintegration.html

Spreadsheets are versatile tools, and the math classroom is ideal to introduce these tools. Not only for number crunch-

ing, spreadsheets can present information in a graphic context simply and easily. The site explains basic requirements and processes used to manage the numerical information collected from data sets or surveys.

Interactive Mathematics Miscellany and Puzzles

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★★

http://www.cut-the-knot.com/content.html

Once past the conundrum of Smullyan, you enter a huge resource for mathematics teachers. With nearly thirty headings and many subdirectories, this is a site covering such topics as math quotes, algebra, geometry, probability, and mathematical proofs. There are more than 100 geometry contributions alone, including many Java demonstrations of concepts such as drawing circles to cycloids, movies of the Moebius strip, the Pythagoras theorem, and much more.

Math in Daily Life

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath/

Until they leave school, students often do not appreciate how necessary basic mathematical skills are in daily life. Here they can learn about probability from a unit on playing to win, percentages demonstrated in discussions on banking, area and perimeter in home decorating, and math in population growth and cooking.

MathRealm

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★★★

http://www.mathrealm.com/

This site provides hundreds of award-winning math lessons, learning tools, and exploration activities that can be integrated into a customized online service tracking student progress. Teachers can create worksheets and tests for students to complete online that are automatically graded.

Mathematics Education Forum

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://forum.swarthmore.edu/mathed/index.html

This is a great site for seeing what the various positions are on such topics as constructivism, assessment, and block scheduling as well as learning about research and technology in math education, professional development, and the conference scene.

Orbifold Pinball

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★

http://www.geom.umn.edu/apps/pinball/about.html

Don't let anyone tell you this is not math! This is geometry as you have never seen it before. Orbifold Pinball uses a curved board, and when the ball nearly misses the bumper, it will still be whipped around as if it had actually hit the bumper. You will need to read the report "The Mathematics of Orbifold Pinball" to get the most out of this math lesson.

Phoenix Quest

ideal for grade levels 4–10 ★★★

http://www.cs.ubc.ca/nest/egems/pq/toc.html

This site makes math interesting to girls in grades 4–10. The units here integrate activity elements that girls can relate to with an exotic story based on mythical islands near Hong Kong. Students join characters and learn math on the journey with communication and cooperative learning elements.

Project SkyMath: Making Mathematical Connections

ideal for grade levels 4–10 ★★★

http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html

This site looks at the use and application of math in context. The theme for the units is weather. Each unit looks at applying mathematical knowledge to the systematical logging, analyzing, and displaying of data. You can find a partner class in the world and exchange data and results. Good opportunity here to integrate the Internet into the curriculum.

S.O.S. Mathematics

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★

http://www.sosmath.com/

This University of Texas Web site has been designed to help students in grades 8–12 with their development in mathematics. There are good introductory sections dealing with doing homework, preparing for a test, and getting ready for class, as well as support information on a range of mathematical topics including calculus, trigonometry, and algebra.

Teachnet Lesson Ideas

ideal for all grade levels ★★

http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/index.html

From the main Teachnet Lesson Ideas site, you can access a series of good math-related lesson plans. Topics include geometry, maps and graphs, real-world applications, and terminology. There are about fifty lesson plans at the main site, and they are well thought out and well presented.

The Challenge of the 7 Cups

ideal for grade levels 9–11 ★★★★★

http://www.learningwave.com/abmath/7cups/index.html

Legend has it that there exists a cup so powerful that it transforms sadness into joy. This cup has been lost and you have the job of passing through the gate of Janus to find it. In this interactive module, algebra, logic and deductive thought will be your greatest weapons. Good luck.

The 7th Floor

ideal for grade levels 6–9 ★★★★

http://www.learningwave.com/abmath/hotel/index4.html

In this extraordinary online math adventure you're about to enter the seventh floor of Hotel Unknown! You need all your logical and critical thinking skills in order to solve the puzzle. If your students are into deductive and logical thinking, this is an excellent activity for them. Weird, but excellent.

WebMath

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★★

http://www.webmath.com/

This online problem solver comes complete with an online math engine that can instantly provide answers to problems presented to students. Select the range of problems you want your students to work on, and the site will offer questions on that topic. Students complete the work and get instant feedback. Topics include practical math, word problems, graphing, fractions, scientific notation, trigonometry, data analysis, and much more. A good selection of problems.

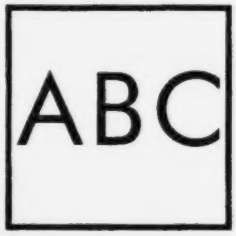
Zoomerang: Surveys Online

ideal for grade levels 5–12 ★★★★★

http://www.zoomerang.com/

You can download the free edition of this software and use real students to conduct surveys using the school network. The software is easy to use, so setting up questionnaires is not a problem.

Reading and Language Arts



Title URL	Rating	Page
A Word With You http://www.wordwithyou.com	★★★	23
Barnes and Noble http://www.barnesandnoble.com/	★★★	23
Burning Press http://www.burningpress.org/bphome.html	★★★	23
Children's Literature Web Guide http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html	★★★	23
Critical Reading and Writing http://www.criticalreading.com	★★★★	24
Digital Journalist http://www.dirckhalstead.org/	★★★★	24
F. Scott Fitzgerald http://www.sc.edu/fitzgerald/index.html	★★★★	24
Film and Television Studies http://eserver.org/filmtv/	★★★	24
Guide to Grammar and Writing http://ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/	★★★★	25
Inkspot: The Writer's Resource http://www.inkspot.com/	★★★	25
Issues in Literacy Development http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/res/literacy	★★★	25

Kairos ★★★★★
http://english.ttu.edu/kairos 25

KidStuff ★★★
http://www.kidstuff.org/ 26

LibrarySpot ★★★★
http://www.libraryspot.com/ 26

Make-a-Story ★★★★
http://www1.ctw.org/preschool/makeastory/ss/home/1,1606,,00.html . . . 26

Media Awareness Network: For Educators ★★★★
http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/med/class/ 26

Odyssey ★★★
http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/odyssey/ 27

Poets' Corner ★★★
http://www.geocities.com/~spanoudi/poems/index.html 27

Public Speaking Web Site ★★★
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Pulitzer Prizes ★★★★
http://www.pulitzer.org/index.html 27

Romeo and Juliet ★★★
http://www.romeoandjuliet.com/ 28

Student Newspapers ★★★
http://dir.yahoo.com/News/Newspapers/K_12/ 28

Scripts for Schools ★★★
http://scriptsforschools.com/ 28

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A Word With You

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★

http://www.wordwithyou.com/

Here is a daily online column, featuring little-known facts about well-known words and phrases. It includes a cartoon panel and a short article. These are great, containing anecdotes that students can impart to the rest of the class as a short language presentation.

Barnes and Noble

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.barnesandnoble.com/

The huge bookseller is online with all the books you could want. The site highlights a more literary approach and provides an excellent listing of books.

Burning Press

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★

http://www.burningpress.org/bphome.html

This is a collection of topical sections dealing with such aspects as "WWWeb-based intermedia," a gallery of online "vizlit" (visual literature) and "audioart" (performance and sound poetry), and several other avant-garde topics. If you want to keep at the forefront of where technology and the English language fuse, this is a good place to start.

Children's Literature Web Guide

ideal for grade levels 8–10 ★★★

http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html

This is an extensive guide to support children's literature on the Web. There are many stories here that can be used in class, on a one-to-one basis, or as a learning center. It also has lists of journals and research guides, discussion groups, conferences, teaching ideas, and much more. Great site.

Critical Reading in Writing

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://www.criticalreading.com/

To non-critical readers, many texts offer the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. To the critical reader, any single text provides but one portrayal of the facts or one individual's "take" on the subject. Teaching students to think critically about information that they read is one of the most important skills for the 21st century.

Digital Journalist

ideal for grade levels 11–12 ★★★★

http://www.dirckhalstead.org/

The increasing use of visual imagery in communicating concepts, ideas, and products has spawned completely new employment opportunities, and digital journalism is just one. The site demonstrates the power of the visual image and the potential for the use of imagery. This multimedia magazine for photojournalism emphasizes digital collection, transfer, and manipulation to form the final product.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

ideal for grade levels 11–12 ★★★★

http://www.sc.edu/fitzgerald/index.html

This author page sets out an eclectic collection of essays and articles, a chronology of Fitzgerald's life, quotations, writings, and voice and video clips. There is a record of the centenary celebrations that took place in 1996 and more. This is excellent background for students to investigate prior to studying Fitzgerald's many and brilliant literary works.

Film and Television Studies

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://eserver.org/filmtv/

EServer's film and television section features some good links to be explored. They vary considerably, however, so I suggest you take a look before directing students here.

Guide to Grammar and Writing

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/

This extensive Web site covers all aspects of written language and the structure and formation of sentences. The site deals with the principles of composition, the different genres of communication, and features a collection of more than 150 interactive quizzes with an "ask an expert" service.

Inkspot: The Writer's Resource

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★

http://www.inkspot.com/

A great site for aspiring writers. The effect of authenticity on student motivation is well recorded. This site gives students contact with authors and writing experts, with articles, advice, interviews, and guides on how to write well and how to sell writing, plus links to other writing sites on the Web.

Issues in Literacy Development

ideal for grade levels K–8 ★★★

http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/res/literacy

This site has research on recognized best practices in teaching literacy for grades K–8. Topics include emergent literacy, the phonics debate, literature, thematic approaches, guided reading, and much more. School managers can print reports and use them as discussion starters or leave reports in the staff room for personal professional development.

Kairos

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★★

http://english.ttu.edu/kairos

Every English language teacher should review this material that encourages teachers to use technology. Teachers and students need to learn to interpret the information from electronic sources. The site features visual language, oral language, and written language as well as material on getting teachers to use MOOs in the classroom.

KidStuff

ideal for grade levels K–10 ★★★

http://www.kidstuff.org/

This is one of the most popular Web sites on the Internet where students can post their work. The most popular work here is poetry, and there is an excellent collection from students all over the world. With more than five million visitors, this site provides students with a huge potential audience.

LibrarySpot

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://www.libraryspot.com/

This is a huge reference site that would be an excellent default site for libraries. The reference desk here is extensive, with biographical information, business sites, calculators, calendars, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, phone books, quotations, and statistics. There are also stacks of information for parents, students, teachers, and businesses.

Make-a-Story

ideal for grade levels K–1 ★★★★

http://www1.ctw.org/preschool/makeastory/ss/home/1,1606,,00.html

Although designed for preschoolers, this would be an excellent Web site for K–1 students to create silly stories using words, pictures, and a bit of technological magic. This is an excellent site to introduce students to the Internet.

Media Awareness Network: For Educators

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/med/class/

This is a huge resource and support for teachers of media literacy. Here is an educational rationale for those who are not yet convinced of the need for this teaching. Site features include units of work from teachers of media education around the world, a resource index, lists of support organizations, and background material on educational issues in this field, as well as links to relevant discussion groups.

Odyssey

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★

http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/odyssey/

Some students think the only Homer that ever lived is part of the Simpson family, but this site presents Homer's *Odyssey* in a context that even the most reluctant learner will enjoy. Good support material here. You can buy the video by the Discovery Channel if you missed the program on television.

Poets' Corner

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.geocities.com/~spanoudi/poems/index.html

This is a huge collection of poetry, with thousands of poems from hundreds of poets. Selections are arranged by title, author, and subject. Have students do an investigation on themes to see how different poets attack a particular subject.

Public Speaking Website

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★

http://www.abacon.com/pubspeak/

Public speaking is one of the essential skills for the 21st century and is not taught sufficiently in most schools. At this site you can learn how to assess and analyze the audience you are speaking to, how to organize and write your speech, as well as how to deliver your presentation. It also has an excellent section on how to research topics.

Pulitzer Prizes

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★★

http://www.pulitzer.org/index.html

Students need to be exposed to good journalism, and where better than here? As well as the prizewinners from each year, you can see the complete works for the last several years, including photos, music clips, cartoons, and text. This is high-motivation material and an excellent classroom resource.

Romeo and Juliet

ideal for grade levels 8–12 ★★★

http://www.romeoandjuliet.com/

Some traditionalists might not like its style, but students are eager to see this contemporary film that tells this Shakespearean tale in a modern context. Watch the film, view the site, and compare and contrast the two versions. This is an excellent exercise for senior students. There is plenty here to support the approach used by the site, including a biography of Shakespeare, some excellent background information, details about setting, and a chat room.

Student Newspapers

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/K_12/Newspapers/

This is a directory of newspapers written by students from mostly US cities. These vary from very good to indifferent. Students will find good ideas to judge their efforts against.

Scripts for School

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://scriptsforschools.com/

Here is a great selection of theater scripts for K–10 students as well as a selection of scripts for teens and adults. This is a great concept for the classroom especially in social and work environments where communication in an oral format is so important. Material here is organized around themes as well as specific academic subjects.

TheCase.com for Kids

ideal for grade levels K–6 ★★★★

http://www.thecase.com/kids/

One of the great challenges that faces English teachers is to encourage students to read. This site has set the task of presenting material that is suitable for young students. There are mysteries to solve, scary stories, magic tricks, and contests, all of which aim to encourage students to read more.

The Tongue Twister Database

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8136/tonguetwisters.html

Tongue twisters are a fun way to encourage students to enunciate their words clearly and read what is written, not what they think should be there.

The Victorian Web

ideal for grade levels 6–12 ★★★★

http://landow.stg.brown.edu/victorian/victov.html

This extensive Web site deals with almost every aspect of the Victorian era. Understanding this era is pivotal for students looking at the development of language, Shakespearean literature, European poetry and much that forms the basis of our present-day language. There is information here dealing with every aspect of Victorian culture, history, philosophy, religion, science, technology, arts, and much more.

Virtual Presentation Assistant

ideal for all grade levels ★★★★

http://www.ukans.edu/cwis/units/coms2/vpa/vpa.htm

This is an excellent online tutorial designed to help improve public speaking skills. The importance of oral language development cannot be underestimated. These are essential skills that teachers need to spend more time teaching. The suggestions offered are pertinent and well presented.

Vocabulary University

ideal for grade levels 4–12 ★★★★

http://www.vocabulary.com/

This is a wonderful collection of puzzles that enhance vocabulary development. There are three levels to educate and entertain. Students must be registered (at no charge) and then they can start working through the puzzles. The puzzles are changed regularly and are often centered on events, special occasions, or themes in the news. Diplomas can even be earned from this virtual university.

WebExhibits

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://www.webexhibits.com/

Looking for a good online exhibit to motivate your students? This excellent collection of exhibits covers such topics as creative arts, the ancient world, discovery and expedition, society and culture, health and medicine, environment, science and technology, and academic subjects.

Writers' Window

ideal for all grade levels ★★★

http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz/writers/home.html

You can get your students' work published online here. Check out the rules, and then choose to have students write poetry, stories, research articles, or film, television, or book reviews. This site affords a good opportunity for teachers to showcase student work and also for students to see what their peers are writing about.

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